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[0079]   ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0080]   A network device that controls the communication of data frames between stations includes a number of receive ports that receive data frames from the stations and a number of output ports that transmit the data frames to their intended destinations. The network device also includes a number of output queues that store data forwarding information associated with the received data frames. The network device partitions each of the output queues into a number of portions corresponding to the priorities supported by the network device. The number of portions and the size of each portion of the output queues may be programmable by the user.